APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/004,725	12/04/2001	Narayan Venkatasubramanyan	020431.0884	1188

53184	7590	02/12/2008

i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC.
ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234

EXAMINER
VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3623	

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
02/12/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action

1.   The following advisory action is in response to the after-final communications filed

1/7/2008.

2.   Applicant's arguments with regards to Kennedy et al. (U.S. 6,047,290) in view of Weber

et al. (U.S. 2002/0156663) have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. In the

remarks, Applicant argues that Kennedy does not teach discretizing the time variables of the

buffers, as per claim 8.

        In response to argument (3), Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner relied upon

Kennedy et al. to discloses a supply chain representation which includes a plurality of buffers,

wherein the buffers have associated time variables. See figure 2, column 2, lines 39-65, and

column 3, lines 7-32 and 40-65, column 5, lines 40-60, column 6, lines 1-15, and column 7, lines

30-50, wherein an optimized supply chain is produced by the planning system, where a quantity

of items is described for each buffer based on time values. The optimized supply chain is

produced by upstream and downstream planning, where producers are assigned to buffers to

supply the items to the buffers. Weber et al. was relied on to teach using a linear programming

program, approximating this problem using discretized variables to yield a plurality of

discretized variables and by relaxing the constraint to yield a relaxed constraint and calculating

an optimized solution supply plan for the approximated linear programming problem. Weber et

al. does teaches approximating this problem using discretized variables to yield a plurality of

discretized variables and by relaxing the constraint to yield a relaxed constraint and calculating

an optimized solution supply plan for the approximated linear programming problem. Weber et

al. discloses using finite and discrete values in the linear programming problem. Weber et al.

further disclose relaxing one of the constraints of this problem to be able to calculate an optimal

solution, as well as both soft and hard constraints to the LP problem. Thus, the solution is

approximated by the relaxation of constraints. See paragraphs 18, 27, 103, 120-1, and 170 and

106, 217.

     Thus, the combination of Kennedy et al. and Weber et al. does teach and suggest the

limitation, where Kennedy et al. explicitly discloses the supply chain representation with the

appropriate values and Weber et al. specifically discloses discretizing such variables.

     Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to BETH VAN DOREN whose telephone number is (571)272-6737.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-5:00.

     If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would

like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated

information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. V./
bvd
February 7, 2008

/Beth Van Doren/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623